

THE DAYS AND HOURS

ORIGIN OF OUR SYSTEM OF THE DIVISION OF TIME.

It was devised by the Babylonians, who were a very clever people, and was adopted by the Greeks and has survived through all changes.

If you pull your watch out of your pocket you will have in your hand one of the most wonderful pieces of machinery ever constructed. Think how it works throughout the day and night and how it keeps it up year in, year out. Think how the second hand points to 3,600 divisions of time during every hour. It never sleeps.

If it is like the average watch, it will be built up of no fewer than 175 different pieces. These pieces will have passed through more than 2,400 separate operations, each being a distinct form of manufacture.

The fourth jewel wheel screw is so very small that it is almost invisible. To the naked eye it appears to be but a speck of dust. When examined under a magnifying glass it will be seen to be a perfect screw, having 200 threads to the inch, each thread being well defined. Actually the diameter of this screw is so little as the four one-thousandths of an inch, and it would take no less a number than 100,000 similar screws in order to fill an ordinary tumbler as used by the ladies.

Each screw has a double head and has to be hardened. After the hardening process the screws are arranged in frames, being placed in with the heads upward. This delicate operation is done by the sense of touch alone in stead of by sight, and great rapidity marks the skillful operator. Somewhere about a hundred screws are placed in each frame, and the frames are attached to a machine which polishes the heads of the screws 10,000 at a time.

It will be seen how marvelous these screws are, yet one of them forms but one tiny part of a watch. Still, this will show the remarkable nature of that everyday article. When special watches are considered there is indeed room for wonder.

For instance, take the watch which was presented to Catherine I. on her coronation as empress of Russia. This watch was one of the most remarkably constructed instruments ever made.

On the opposite side of the works of this extraordinary timekeeper there was an exact representation of the holy sepulcher, with a carved image of the Roman guard stationed outside it. As soon as the watch case was opened the imitation rocks would roll away from the mouth of the sepulcher, the soldier would kneel, angels would appear at opposite sides of the opening, and sweet strains of music would be heard. This remarkable watch took nine years' uninterrupted labor in order to construct.

The first clock in any way resembling those in use at present was made by Henry Vick in the year 1370, and was made for Charles V. of France. This monarch was nicknamed the Wise, but his education was imperfect in many respects, and he knew it well. As a result he was very obstinate in his claim to know everything. Vick showed this obstinacy when his approval. The king could not find any fault with its working, so he criticized the figure on the dial.

He told the maker that he had made a grievous error, as the figures to denote the hour of a day should be four. Poor Vick ventured to tell the king that he was wrong. "I am never wrong!" thundered the irate monarch. "Take the clock away and correct the mistake at once upon pain of my displeasure!"

Vick had to do as he was told, with the result that all our timepieces have the fourth hour labeled IIII instead of IV, as should be the case if the correct nomenclature were followed.

How many people have the slightest notion why sixty seconds make a minute and why the hour is divided into sixty minutes, and so on? Why are there not ten hours to the day and ten to the night?

The reason is very simple. It is because the people of Babylon reckoned not only by a decimal system of notation, but also by a sexagesimal system. That is to say, they reckoned by tens, but also by sixties. The Babylonians were very clever people, and they saw that the decimal system was by no means the best.


They knew that no number had so many divisors as has sixty. How about the division of the day into hours? The Babylonians began by comparing the progress made by the sun on its daily journey in the distance covered by a good walker, this being done at the time of the equinox. The astronomers divided the sun's journey into twenty-four parts, whence our hours.

The Babylonian system was adopted by the Greeks. It is one of the most remarkable facts of history that the system has survived through every change made since the days of Babylon. When the French revolutionized all weights and measures, going so far as to alter the days of the week, still they left the old system of notation so far as regarded the reckoning of the flight of time. Even our own lovers of the decimal notation do not suggest that the old sexagesimal method of reckoning time should be altered.

—Pearson's Weekly.

Continued.
Dinner—Give me a plate of pork and beans and hurry 'em up. Waiter (shouting)—Chicago and Boston express!—Cleveland Leader.

However rich or elevated it may be, a nameless something is always wanting to our imperfect fortunes.—Horace.



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POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

Crazy people never think they are crazy. Are you crazy? The average person places too much confidence in an apology.

People are not so much interested in your grievances as you think they are. It is one thing to appreciate a compliment and another thing to swallow it.

A woman never used powder that a man didn't notice it. But women say, "Men are so easily fooled!"

Men don't like men very well. Women don't like women very well either. And men quarrel with women some times.

When a man regrets that he didn't get more schooling in his youth, some how his sons who have to go to school don't sympathize with him as much as he expected.—Atchison Globe.

Fighting Shows Race.

"By the way they fight I can tell men's nationality," said a policeman. An Englishman, when he is going to fight, throws his hat and coat in a blustering, bluffing way on the ground. A Scot pulls his hat down tight on his head and buttons his coat carefully. The canny Scot is not going to endanger any of his property.

An Irishman appeals to the crowd to hold his man appeals to the crowd to hold his coat. The Celtic nature desires sympathy and tries to build it up. A German, methodical, precise, folds his coat in a neat bundle and lays his hat on top of it to hold it down. An American is so anxious to pitch in and have the thing over that he starts fighting without giving a thought to hat or coat.—New York Press.

The London Police.

When the scheme was first broached fierce opposition developed to the establishment of London's metropolitan police, in September, 1829. Police to patrol the streets of London? Such a scheme was "repugnant to the spirit of English law and to the theory of free government," according to an editorial in the Standard of the day. "As a system of clandestine intelligence, the thing is complete," it went on. "The low constable is instructed to make himself acquainted with the inhabitants of every house within his beat. And how is this information to be obtained but by the pumping of the servants?"

A Severe Test.

Don't ask a girl to marry you after dark when she is dressed fit to kill. Call on her, and when you leave inadvertently drop a glove on the piano. Return for it the next morning at 9 o'clock. If she comes to the door with one shoe and one slipper on, her hair done up in curl papers, dressed in an old Mother Hubbard, your advice is to take to the woods. But if she appears in a neat house dress, her hair done up and a rose in the top of her hair, grab her quick.—Marionville (Mo.) Free Press.

Winning Ways.

The people who win their way into the innermost recesses of others' hearts are not usually the most brilliant and gifted, but those who have sympathy, patience, self-forgetfulness and that indefinable faculty of eliciting the better nature of others.—Woman's Life.

A Cautious Statement.

More reserved in its wording than most epitaphs is one in a Derbyshire churchyard, which, after giving particulars of birth and death, concludes, "Twas said he was an honest man."

Unhappiness.

They who have never known prosperity can hardly be said to be unhappy. It is from the remembrance of joys we have lost that the arrows of affliction are pointed.—Emile Zola.

For Over Sixty Years.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for over 60 years by millions of mothers for their children's colic, teething, with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Sold by Druggists in every part of the world. Twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other kind.—Advt.

DARING OF LIONS.

Incidents to Prove That the Brutes Are Not Cowardly.

It has been said many times that lions are cowardly brutes, but of the many lions with which I have had personal dealings, expectedly and unexpectedly, the epithet cowardly is the last I should consider appropriate in describing them. I have been charged by a lion, and he certainly did not look cowardly. I have come face to face, at a distance of some twenty feet, with a family party of half a dozen, fortunately full fed. They stood, with quiet dignity, looking at us, and then slowly moved away, stopping every few yards to stand and look again. There was neither fear nor meanness in their appearance or behavior.

I have seen lions stalking game, and I have myself been stalked by them. If I could have encouraged myself with the conviction of their cowardliness when I was the quarry and they the hunters, it would have put a different aspect on the situation. We were at this time living in a station over seven miles from the nearest connecting link with the outside world, and when man eating lions took possession of the one road which led to this link things became serious.

A large troop was reported, and the natives maintained that this troop ran along in the grass parallel with the caravan road (a path some ten inches wide), and, having selected the most edible member of the caravan, jumped upon him like a flash, and, seizing him, disappeared as quickly as they came.

Our mail runners, attached to whom were a couple of native police armed with rifles, were several times attacked. Finally, as the wall party was camping one night, fortunately for it, with a native caravan, the lions became so bold that, in spite of fires, they sprang upon a native and carried him off into the bush.—Mrs. S. L. Hinde in Blackwood's Magazine.

Carpet Cleaning.

Now is the time to clean carpets. If you want your carpets taken up, cleaned and relaid, send word to D. Douglass, No. 9 Park street, Montreal. Mr. Douglass has had years of experience in carpet cleaning, and has a large patronage in this town, Glen Ridge and Montreal. Those intending to move can have their carpets taken up, cleaned and relaid on short notice. The work will be well and promptly done.—Advt.

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November 8, 1905

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